

**GLOW Region Solid Waste Management Committee
2018 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program
Final Report Executive Summary**

GLOW began to offer collection of hazardous chemicals when it held its Farm Pesticide Amnesty Collection Program in 1995. This led to the realization that residents needed a way to dispose of household hazardous wastes. The first household program was held in 1996. Household collections were held each year thereafter until 1999 when a second farm pesticide collection was held. Household collections resumed in 2000 and have been held each year since then. 2018 represents the twenty second year. Traditionally two collections have been held each year. Due to financial constraints, single collections began in 2004 and have continued since that time. Funding for these programs has been via grants awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation, along with funds from GLOW's administrative budget.

In January of 2019 GLOW will apply to DEC for a grant and reimbursement for funding for a single collection that was held on September 15, 2018. The grants are now for single collections held the calendar year before the application is submitted. The application, reimbursement request and associated documentation showing proof of payment are submitted together through the State's Grants Gateway system in January of the year following the collection. A 50% contribution by GLOW for eligible expenses is required. Reimbursable expenses for the program totaled \$24,349.74 resulting in an anticipated reimbursement to GLOW of \$12,174.87.

GLOW issued an RFP in January of 2017 for the program. Three (3) proposals were received. The RFP requested pricing for collection, recycling and/or disposal of household chemicals, cleaning products, insecticides, oil based paint, resins and adhesives, and other hazardous materials. After careful analysis and discussion, Environmental Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) of Cincinnati, Ohio was chosen as the primary vendor. EEI had been the chosen contractor since 2005 and GLOW was satisfied with the performance and pricing. In the contract that GLOW signed with EEI there are provisions for extending the contract for one year (2018) at the same terms and conditions, and a second year (2019) with pricing to be renegotiated. The cost of only one item, mercury, increased from 2012 to 2017. GLOW chose to exercise the first year option for the 2018 program. Pricing was solicited to provide additional collection services. HTI Recycling was chosen to collect tires. Waste Management was chosen to provide a roll off for solid waste. GLOW decided to take electronics out of this collection and hold a separate electronics collection two weeks later, at the same location, without requiring appointments. For the ninth time at a household hazardous waste collection GLOW was able to collect pharmaceutical waste (i.e. outdated, unwanted prescription and over the counter drugs). This was possible because of changes in requirements by the State some years ago, and because of assistance from the Wyoming County Sheriff's Department, who provided a deputy for the day, took possession of the materials and delivered them to Covanta Niagara. Covanta incinerated them as required by the State, at no charge.

GLOW's experience and track record with past collections has proven invaluable and has led to fine-tuning of the program. Recent program costs and vendor efficiencies led to GLOW's decision to accept up to 600 appointments in at recent collections. It became evident early on in the appointment process that a significant number of appointments at collections in recent years have been taken by people who only brought electronics. Because of this GLOW shortened the day by three time slots and still had 204 spots available the day before the collection. Two hundred seventy (270) residents attended. The program is run in an extremely economical manner and as efficiently as possible. Total costs for the 2018 program were within budget.

The program was promoted extensively throughout the counties. Advertisements were placed in local newspapers, pennysavers, a local radio and two press releases were issued. In addition, laminated posters, a poster suitable for copying, and copies of press releases (for municipal newsletters) were sent to all 73 municipalities and their transfer stations. GLOW also sent postcards to 343 residents that were placed on a notification list that is maintained in between programs.

Steps were taken to keep program costs down. These steps included: not accepting latex paints and stains and empty aerosol cans and other empty containers (which can be placed in the regular trash) and encouraging residents to take uncontaminated containers back. In addition, Ed Arnold Recycling accepted vehicle batteries, propane tanks and propane canisters at no charge to GLOW.

Once again, a system of appointments was established for residents who wanted to participate. Thirty appointments were taken for each 15-minute interval. Six hundred (600) spots were available. GLOW once again planned to overbook to account for "no shows". A total of 306 appointments were taken. Residents made appointments by telephone and email and were sent a registration packet two weeks prior to the collection. The packet included a registration form with safety information, an exit survey card, the HHW substitutes brochure, a map and GLOW's *Mercury: Focus on Environmental Health Hazards* brochure, along with a brochure called *So, if you won't take it, how do I get rid of it?* This brochure combined, in succinct language, five (5) brochures into one. Information on Batteries Plus in Rochester and the fact that they accept alkaline batteries was also included. GLOW once again used "piggyback" mailing labels that, in addition to the resident's name and address, also listed their appointment time. The labels have adhesive on the back and were able to be pulled off and stuck to a piece of paper to get a count later. There was eight (8) drive ins. Total attendance was 270.

The event was held on Saturday, September 15 at the Wyoming County's Highway Department on Route 19 in the hamlet of Rock Glen. The site was chosen because it is large enough to conduct the event and located on a main thoroughfare. Residents began arriving at 8:20 a.m. The collection started at 8:45 a.m. vehicles were unloaded as fast and efficiently as possible. Without exception residents waited no more than 10 minutes.

The volume of material taken out of the waste stream was impressive. Residents disposed of: 187 tires, 48 vehicle batteries, 526 lbs. oil filters, 154 propane canisters and 17 - 20-pound propane tanks. Also collected were 7,755 lbs. of paint, 1,764 lbs. of pesticides, 1,131 lbs. of aerosols, 1,812 lbs. of resins & adhesives and 920 lbs. of fluorescent bulbs.

Exit survey results were consistent with other recent programs. The vast majority of residents rated the events as 4 or 5 (on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 the highest) and said that they appreciated the opportunity to dispose of hazardous materials. They often commented on how courteous staff and volunteers were and how well organized the event was. Most found out about the program through local newspaper and penny saver advertising and just under half had not participated in previous year's events.

Total program costs were \$26,025.25. Of that amount \$20,463.13 was for disposal of materials and \$5,562.12 was for advertising, printing, postage, supplies, and refreshments. Eligible expenses amount to \$24,349.73 of which GLOW will be reimbursed \$12,174.87. Program costs amount to \$92.93 per participant, an increase of \$27.67 per participant from 2017. This increase is likely due to a distortion that was caused by the large number of residents that were bringing only electronics to the collection.

For more information on this program or a copy of the full report contact Peggy Grayson, Recycling Administrator at (585) 815-7906, (585) 344-2580 extension 5463 or 800/836-1154.